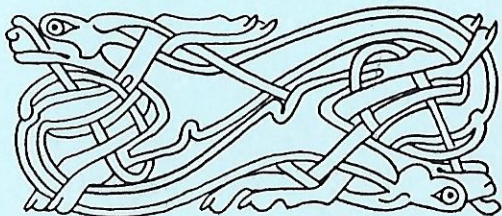
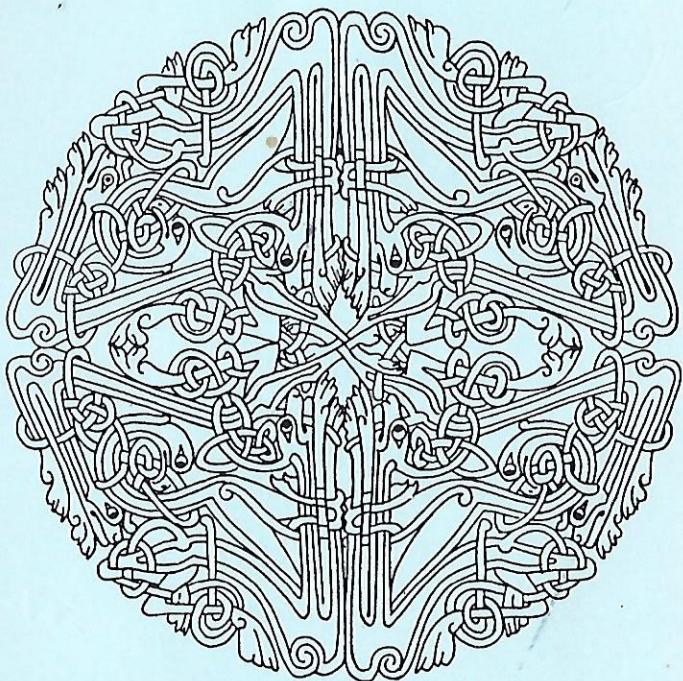


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* * * * *

Cha'n fheum an ti a shealbhaicheas an
toradh am blàth a mhilleadh.

He who would enjoy the fruit must not
spoil the blossom.

LITRICHEAN DHUINN (LETTERS TO US)

I generally miss the opportunity to use NAIDHEACHD to learn something about the language; that is, I wish there were a lot more readings in the language, contained in each issue. If you look at the situation in terms of the ratio of Gàidhlig to English, the amount of Gàidhlig is very small indeed.

Why this is, I've never understood. There is a quantity of things written in the language, yet NAIDHEACHD rarely features anything for the student to read on a continual basis. Did you ever see TINNE the New Zealand Gàidhlig magazine? It always has lots to read usually with an English translation.

How about something by Donnie MacLean? He was here and gone yet there's no text whatsoever from him. Wish you'd consider my query!

le Dùrachdan

David George Williams
San Francisco, California

Mr. Williams is a long-time contributor to Naidheachd. From time to time he contributes a cartoon in Gàidhlig. His suggestions follow on those of Mr. Dyer in the last issue of Naidheachd. We have found a way to meet these suggestions in part, but for more extensive comments see The Editor Comments in this issue.

Editor

Bho Cheann a' Bhùird: President's Message

Gaelic Weekend/Annual Meeting

At its recent winter meeting the ACGA Board of Directors set Sunday, May 31, as the date of this year's Annual General Meeting of members. Preceding the AGM will be the Gaelic Weekend, starting on Friday, May 29, and running through noon on Sunday. Last year's Weekend was ACGA's first attempt at such an endeavor and was well-received by the 50 plus participants. Both it and the AGM will be held at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. Mark your calendars now and watch for a special mailing on this.

ACGA Scholarship(s)

After a hiatus of one year, the ACGA Scholarship to attend the Gaelic College is again being offered to our members. In fact, since we skipped last year, we are making two awards in 1998. One scholarship will be given to attend the Immersion Week at the College, which is tentatively set for August 23-28. The second one will go to a **beginner**, who can use it to attend either the Immersion Week or any of the other (non-immersion) sessions offered there, provided the recipient takes at least three Gaelic classes. Both these scholarships cover room, board and tuition for a one-week course. If interested, please contact Education Committee members William Roy or William (Liam) Cassidy, whose addresses can be found on the inside front cover of this issue. For more information about the Gaelic College itself, please write to P.O. Box 9, Baddeck, Nova Scotia B0E 1B0 or phone 902-295-3411.

Games' Funding

Do you want to put together an ACGA table/tent at your local Highland Games? This is a great way for finding people who want to form a study group or even locating native speakers. If

you're interested in doing this, please contact a Board member about how to apply for ACGA financial assistance. Deadline for applications is April 30.

Chan eil cadal ann an Seattle

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an inspiring piece by Pam Nation, who relocated to Seattle from Colorado this past year. What Pam has found in the Northwest is a burgeoning Gaelic scene of which many of us were heretofore only slightly aware. Slighe nan Gaidheal, the local organization there, will hold a *feis* from April 30 to May 3. Although this is not an ACGA event, we heartily encourage all our members who can to attend this. Moreover, the ACGA Board has just voted to make a financial contribution to help support it. What is happening in this part of North America is what we'd like to see occur in other regions as well, and it is our hope that An Comunn Gaidhealach - America can work more closely with Slighe nan Gaidheal and similar organizations in the future.

Putting the "comunn" back into ACGA

Often the question is asked "What do I get for joining ACGA?" At the present the only physically tangible benefit is this publication. But I think it's important to remember that ACGA is not a vendor selling you a product. We are an association of individuals who are interested in strengthening and furthering the Gaelic language. When you join ACGA, you're joining a movement, an effort by like-minded individuals striving to lift the weight of history off this ancient and beautiful tongue.

Having a network of regional representatives for members to contact can accentuate the "association" aspect of ACGA. One of the things that I first wrote about when I became president was the need for a new generation of regional coordinators to help reinvigorate our organization at the grass-roots level. (See the 1996 summer issue of Naidheachd.) Ten years prior to that, ACGA had first come out with a regional scheme and

"commissioners" as they were called then were appointed. Frankly, that attempt was not very successful, yet it was something that I believed we needed to take a second look at and figure out how we could make it work. We couldn't continue to only have this nebulous presence at a Takoma Park P.O. Box that only gobbled up people's dues.

The Administration Committee at the time - Don MacKinnon, Jerry McIntyre and myself - worked to revamp the sections of ACGA's bylaws pertaining to regional structures. When and if interest was rekindled, we wanted to have the organizational mechanisms in place that would be more flexible and supportive of those people representing ACGA at the local level. As president I dedicated a Board meeting to discussing this issue, and I put out feelers to individuals who I thought might make good regional coordinators.

Time passed, nothing much happened, and other issues came to the fore. Then last fall, a simple inquiry on ACGA-L led to a flurry of e-mail about having local ACGA reps. People were actually volunteering! This type of spontaneity and synergy is the beauty of having a listserve like ACGA-L. Communication can take place that might not otherwise happen, and it can at times be very infectious.

A bheil sibh eòlach air ur regional coordinator ùr?

After discussing on ACGA-L what might be expected of regional coordinators, and after interviewing each of the volunteers myself by phone, I was pleased to appoint and the Board of Directors confirm the following individuals to represent ACGA:

Bob Colie	611 Windy Ridge Dr. Ballwin, MO 63021	314-394-3384 bcolie.global@interalt mci.com
Pam Nation	502 21st St. SE #C Auburn WA, 98002	253-939-3304 PSNation@aol.com

Nick Freer	2407 Leslie Ave. Alexandria, VA 22301	703-683-6411 Neacalban1@aol.com
Jana Blue	506 Maple Ave. Richmond, VA 23226	804-282-5512 seona@att.world.net
Jerry McIntyre	RR 1, Box 193-C Kingsland, TX 78639	915-388-3608
Christine Brady	PO Box 3574 Boulder, CO 80307	303-666-6858 cates@arces.net
Barbara Haring	249 Moore St. Sealy, TX 77474	409-885-2126

Hopefully, this list is just a beginning. Obviously, there are many areas where we lack local representation. I invite all members who would be willing to serve as a regional contact to get in touch with me or any of our other Board Directors. Term length for regional coordinators is 3 years.

"It's retention, stupid!"

Historically, the role of regional coordinators has been seen as that of setting up ACGA booths at Highland Games and recruiting new members. That's all well and good, but when you find out that ACGA retains less than one of four who join, you realize that we're merely treading water. We need to begin turning our attention more and more to retention if we are to ever achieve a critical mass in numbers.

One way to keep more members is to start our retention efforts when a person first joins. The complaint we hear most often from new members is that they wait months until they ever receive anything from ACGA. This is an opportunity for the regional coordinators to make an impact. Wouldn't it be nice when someone first joins for them to receive a phone call or even a postcard - a simple hello, thanking them for joining and

here's how they can reach you if they have any questions or concerns. Maybe some of us not-so-new members wouldn't mind that either. For one Membership Secretary to do this is understandably too much to expect, but with a network of local reps, I think it's doable.

Keeping a rolodex file on the members in one's region and noting their interests and needs could be valuable in many ways. As an information broker, the regional coordinator can help get parties together who want to pursue similar Gaelic activities. Also, these regional contacts can communicate to the ACGA Board of Directors what their members' needs and expectations are, and maybe from time to time they could write a short report for Naidheachd. A small newsletter for the members in the region might also be a good way of communicating and building a sense of community. Perhaps yearly meetings in the regions could be held prior to the national AGM and viewpoints generated in those be communicated to the national meeting. This is all very ambitious, I know, but isn't this really what we want ACGA to look like?

I hope to meet with all the regional coordinators via a teleconference call later this spring. Together we can explore new ideas, discuss what works and what doesn't, and continue the momentum that's been generated. This is an opportune time for us to address a long-neglected area and become a "comunn" in the truest sense.

Ur-cheum dhan t-seann aimsir

It's that time of year to again remind everyone that yearly dues are now due. However, this annual call for *airgead* will eventually disappear. No, we're not planning on doing away with dues unfortunately. In fact, this year they will be increasing to \$25. For years, though, ACGA membership procedures have been for everybody to have the same anniversary date, namely January 1. Thus, each year at approximately this time, our annual membership letter has gone out. Now, under a plan advanced by Membership Secretary Ed Bradshaw and Vice-

President William Cassidy, new members beginning in 1998 will have their membership period tracked on a quarterly basis. For example, if you join in the second quarter of 1998, your membership won't be up for renewal until the second quarter of 1999. Of course, for many of us there will be no change since we will not be converting those memberships taken out prior to 1998. Those will stay with the January 1 renew date.

According to Bradshaw, the data base to which he's transferred our membership information can readily be programmed to track individual anniversary dates and produce a dues reminder letter to send out. We will also be ending the practice of carrying delinquent members for as long as we have in the past. This is expensive and eats up dollars that could otherwise be used to support other ACGA programs. And it's not fair to those who renew on time.

Longtime members will recall that this new procedure is very similar to the way we used to handle our memberships; however, for simplicity's sake the single anniversary date was later adopted. That created its own set of problems. Members who joined prior to July were charged a full year's membership, whereas those who joined later in the year received that first partial year free. This, plus our practice of carrying unrenewed members for extended periods of time, meant that some people got two or three years' worth of membership for the price of one if they didn't renew!

Uill, sgrìobh mi cus mar is abhaist. Gus an ath iris, mar sin leibh an-dràsda.

Glenn Wrightson

DUES ARE DUE!

Annual dues are coming due.

. See the President's letter for details of the new system.

Current dues are \$25 for individual members,

\$50 for clubs,

and

\$100 for corporate members.

Corporate members receive a limited amount of advertising. Inquiries should be addressed to the Journal.

* * * * *

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OFFERED!

Read the President's letter for details.

1997 MÒD: FROM LEWIS & HARRIS!

It was Christmas Even and the sky nearly dark when a package from the Isle of Lewis arrived at our door. A delightful surprise! Donnie and Lynn MacLean had mailed us several large clippings from the *Stornoway Gazette*; and the October 16, 1997 issue with Donnie's four-column wide story about our Tenth U.S. Mòd! Above the story about our Tenth U.S. Mòd! Above the headline "**Sing and Dance to America**" is a photo of the kilted competitors (the youngest just nine years old) near the Main Stage at the Ligonier Highland Games.

An October 9th article, "**Isles success in U.S. Mòd**", featured large photos of award winners Norman Smith and Geraldine Robson of Lewis along with our Mòd story and our thank to the people of the island for their tremendous support!

As the year came to a close, the memories of the 1997 Mòd were a happy and warm as those September days had been for everyone.

1998: FROM SOUTH UIST & CAPE BRETON!

Each Mòd is a unique journey into the Gaelic world. It is a great pleasure to announce that **Rosemary McCormack** of South Uist and Cape Breton will adjudicate the Prose Mail-in Competition and Poetry and Song at the Mòd **September 11 to 13**. She has gathered a wealth of Scottish Gaelic songs and tales over the many years she has lived among traditional singers and story-tellers on both sides of the Atlantic. Rosemary McCormack was

born on South Uist, Outer Hebrides, into a family descended from Clann 'IcMhurich, a long-established line of hereditary bards. She learned her first songs from her mother and stories from her grandfather and other family members. Her early song con-collecting experiences included visits in her teens to some of the great tradition-bearers of South Uist and Barra.

For over 25 years Mrs. McCormack has lived in Cape Breton, home of renowned Gaelic story-tellers. She has had the unique opportunity to collect and perform Gaelic songs found in Nova Scotia, side by side with songs from the old country, and performs regularly on CBC Radio and at concerts and festivals. Rosemary has also been involved in producing Gaelic recordings and learning materials and presenting workshops.

She is preparing wonderful selections for our Mòd tutor tape. I've asked her to include some for children, for we'll always remember the young Gaels from Scotland who charmed us with their poems and songs! As the Mòd gathers a growing community of Gaelic learners, we must find ways to include the young as well as adults.

It was great to welcome fine new Gaelic learners, a young family, and old friends from around the U.S.A. last year. Make plans now for the **1998 Mòd**. We are thrilled that Rosemary McCormack, a rare tradition-bearer, will lead our adventure!

Joan McWilliams Weiss, Mòd Committee Chair.

Gàidhlig in the Pacific Northwest

le Pam Nation

There is a phenomenon taking place in the Pacific Northwest. It has little to do with the glaciers of Mt Rainier, the Orcas in Puget Sound, or even the Monorail and the Space Needle. It has to do with Scots Gàidhlig. And that gentle language is experiencing an explosion of growth in this region.

After having spent a year studying Gàidhlig with a small group in Denver, I have recently moved to Seattle and have entered a virtual immersion of Gàidhlig learning that is hard to rival anywhere in the United States.

There are some 60 plus learners in Seattle alone. There are numbers more in Portland, and in Vancouver. In Seattle, Rich Hill teaches language classes four nights a week, some nights with two different class sessions per night. His command of the language and his great sense of humor make each week's class something to look forward to. Seattle would not have this vibrant learning environment without his efforts in promoting the language. He is also an extremely fine Gàidhlig singer, having competed numerous times in the Vancouver and Toronto Mòd. He always has received superior ratings and several times has taken the overall prize. Rich also has two CD's to his credit and will have a solo CD in the works later this year.

There is an umbrella organization, Slighe nan Gaidheal, which coordinates activities in the area. It provides a focus for learners and is the parent organization for Seinneadairean Gàidhlig Shiatail. It also organizes the Fèis Shiatail, which takes place in the spring every other year, alternating with the Vancouver Mòd. The organization has set the ambitious goal of giving 8 Gàidhlig immersions per year!

The choir, Seinneadairean Gàidhlig Shiatail, boasts nearly 40 members. The Artistic Director and Conductor is Seumas Gagne, the 1997 Scottish National Mòd winner of the Elspeth Hysted Trophy in Solo Clarsach. He also placed first in Learners Gàidhlig Speech and took second place in the New Composition for Harp & Voice. Seumas also is a member of Wicked Celts, a fine NW Celtic band whose first CD has recently been released. The choir competed at the Vancouver Mòd last spring and won the Mixed Choir class. The choir hopes to compete in 1998 in the Scottish National Mòd.

This year's Fèis will take place between April 30th and May 3rd. There will be a visit by traditional fibre arts expert, Norman Kennedy. Norman was chief weaver at Colonial Williamsburg and has spent years studying the traditional methods and customs in the fibre arts. The Fèis begins officially on Thursday night with a panel discussion and cèilidh. Friday, classes will begin at noon. Norman Kennedy will lead an evening of waulking songs and storytelling. Classes will continue during the days through Sunday afternoon. Both major and minor concentrations will be possible. Main areas of classes will be in: Scots Gàidhlig, Scots History and Culture, Fiddling, Piping, Clarsach, and Fibre Arts. There will be a cèilidh on Friday night and a Saturday evening concert featuring the Seinneadairean Gàidhlig Shiatail as well as the instructors. The Saturday performance will include an appearance by the Vancouver Gaelic choir and the newly formed Victoria Gaelic choir. The three choirs will close the evening with 100 voices on stage in Gaelic song!

Many individuals are making a contribution to the spread of Gàidhlig, it is not limited to Rich Hill and Seumas Gagne. The community of learners is close knit and supportive, whether it's volunteering to answer phones for PBS pledge drives and promote the Slighe nan Gaidheal organization, or turn out for a CD Release Party, the participation and level of commitment is

high. Sunday afternoons are often devoted to wool waulking. Not demonstrations, but real waulking for local weavers.

Everyone is encouraged to visit us in the Northwest. Come for the Féis, or just come and visit. There's a pot of tea waiting and some fine Highland hospitality amidst the other attractions of this spectacular region. If you are interested in further details about the Féis or other Gàidhlig activities in the region, please contact me. at 253-939-3304 or psnation@abl.com.

Tha toimhseachan agam ort!

I have a riddle for you!

Théid e null air an abhainn, thig e nall air an
abhainn innsidh e naidheachd, is gun e ag ràdh diog.

It goes out over the river, it comes back in over
the river, it tells a story, without saying a word.

Litir/a Letter

FAR WEST OF THE HEBRIDES CELTS IN THE NEW WORLD

le James F. Goff

*I think that I shall never see a line spoiled by
apostrophes.*

*Apostrophes that guide the eye and lift a word's
disguise.*

*Apostrophes prod my eye their way, letting know
what words really say.*

The written word is not the spoken one. A recent music critic commented on a young violinist's performance that "Her bow was better than her bow." One will never know what he said because he wrote it. Nor this: "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana." Or more to the point; let us dismiss for the moment the apostrophe, as seems to becoming custom in Gaelic, and ask what this English sentence means:

James cant read well as, perhaps, James wont.

A brimming glass of accolade to whoever understands that sentence.

* * * * *

Bha dà bhoireanach a' bruidhinn ri chèile:
" 'S e bòidheach a bha Seonag a-raoir."
" 'S e. Bha i 'na bàna a-rithist."

AN INTRODUCTION TO BOSH

For a while now, from time to time I would encounter a fellow in many of the same places that I would chance to be, particularly places to do with Scottish events in the local fairs, book stores, gatherings, and so on. It happened so often that I felt that we must be very similar, perhaps identical in some respects. Finally I gathered nerve, and with a bit of front, introduced myself. To my surprise he said that he recognized the name. "Wasn't I the editor of the Gaelic Journal?"

He said that his name was Bosh, Anonymous Bosh; and it was my turn to be surprised. He was one of my contributors. The following conversation led to a discussion of a suggestion by one of our members that there should be some attempt to teach Gaelic in the journal. Mr. Bosh said that he agreed that a simple presentation of grammar and vocabulary would not add much. He thought that the problem was to put it into practice. Although one might know grammar at some level and had a good dictionary, it was often a puzzle to translate a sentence. He remarked that in the last issue of Naidheachd the President had been perplexed about an unusual sentence. Indeed he found that if he tried to parse that sentence he was perplexed too.

I suggested to Mr. Bosh that he parse the sentence for our readers. At first he was reluctant. After all he wasn't a native speaker, he had learned only from books and tapes, and he would probably make mistakes. I persisted. Finally he agreed. Perhaps it would be helpful to members, and they could correct his mistakes. He would like that.

Editor

LET'S PARSE!

le Anonymous Bosh

In the Fall issue of Naidheachd our president commented that he found one of the sentences given him for the write-in Mòd to be difficult. The sentence does seem strange; and although I am not a native speaker, I would like to try to translate it. If I am right, it will be instructive to others; and if I am corrected, I shall be instructed.

The sentence was

Chan e mhain gu bheil ach gu feum mi.

Chan is a particle that negates the following verb. However if **chan** is followed by the pronoun **e** then it is understood that it is the negative of the copula verb **is** and so means **it's not**. The positive of this construction is **'Se** which means **it's or it is**.

e is the mandatory personal pronoun *he/it* which follows the copula verb except in certain idioms or when the feminine gender is definitely expected.

mhain is the puzzle. There is a word **man, main, main** (m): hand. However, **man** is an unusual word for hand and possibly has a particular meaning. Further, here it would have to be the lenited genitive possessing the pronoun **e**. Genitives generally do not possess pronouns and are not lenited unless preceded by the article. Therefore I suggest that the word is misspelled and should be **a mhàin** meaning *only, alone*, or an English word having the same sense. The **a** is lost in speech; probably to avoid the vowel combination **e a**. Thus, **chan e mhàin** means **it's not only or it's not all**.

One should ask why **chan e** is followed by an adverb; in modern Gaelic one would expect **chan ann a mhàin**. It could be an idiomatic or ancient use and so is not modern.

gu is a word that has many meanings. It can be a preposition meaning *to* in the sense of *up to* but not *into*; it can change an adjective to an adverb to cite two. Here it is a subordinating conjunction which introduces a noun subordinate clause and means *that, what, or which*. As such **gu** is usually followed by the particle **an** and would be contracted: **gu an/am** (the **am** is required before **b, f, m, p**) to **gu'n/gu'm** and further in the modern orthography to **gun/gum**. In modern Gaelic the particle **am** has been contracted to **a** before the dependent form of the being verb in the present tense; and as a consequence in modern usage, **gum** has become simply **gu** in that case, again probably to avoid the combination **gu a** (sometimes one still sees **gum**). In all cases this **subordinating conjunction** is followed by the **dependent form** of the verb.

bheil is the dependent form of the present tense of the being verb, and so **gu bheil** means *that is* or *what is*.

ach is either a coordinating conjunction meaning *but* or an adverb meaning *only* or *but a*.

Here I pause. One usually does not see a noun clause following the copula verb. Rather he sees a **restrictive clause** which is introduced by the relative pronoun **a** which must be followed by the **independent form** of the verb. The purpose of the restrictive clause is to make the previous word definite. Thus, if I want to say that I am American, then in Gaelic I must say It is American *that I am* which is a restrictive clause which makes American a definite American. The point is that the **copula verb** generally is

used to say that a **definite person or thing** is a **definite person or thing**. I'll not discuss now what is definite in Gaelic.

Since a restrictive clause is not used in the sentence in question, I posit that the noun subordinate clause

gu bheil ach gu feum mi

is a definite thing because qualified nouns are definite in Gaelic. It is essentially the predicate of the above sentence. Let's go on.

feum may be a noun meaning *need* or the **dependent form** of the defective verb meaning *need, have to, must*. The verb **feum** does not have a nominal (gerundive) form. It does not seem that the noun makes sense. Thus, although I would expect **gu'm** to precede it, I opt that **gu feum mi** is a subordinate clause in the preceding subordinate clause and means *that I shall need*. Perhaps **gu'm** has been contracted to **gu** because of dialect or a euphonic reason?

mi is the personal pronoun *I*.

Thus, the final translation would be something like

Chan e mhàin gu bheil ach gu feum mi.

It is not all that there is, only what I need.

If you disagree send corrections to me addressed to the Journal.

Gaelic Resources. A summary compiled by the Education Committee, ACGA

Textbooks and booklets

Everyday Gaelic. 1986. Morag MacNeill. 110 p. Gairm Publications. ISBN 901771 73 2. Almost devoid of grammar, this book is a compendium of useful expressions such as talking to children, dining out, travelling, or describing health problems. Each word is defined with an easy-to-use phonetic system. It may be difficult to locate specific words or expressions quickly. Also, the book contains a few minor errors. No cassette tape is available.

Gaelic Learners Handbook. 1985. R. MacThómais. 60 p. Gairm Publications. ISBN 901771 41 4. A compendium of vocabulary, phrases, and sentences. A fairly useful reference, but no pronunciation guide is given. May be more useful for writing rather than conversation.

Gaelic with a Laugh. 1982. R. C. Owen. 48 p. Clò Chailleann. ISBN 0 906623 06 5. A user-friendly guide is given with respect to pronunciation. The booklet is organized into 15 short lessons, each with a humorous cartoon.

Gaelic is Fun. 1991. Colm O Baoill. 85 p. Acair. ISBN 0-86152-840-9. This is a booklet for beginners, and uses burlesque-type cartoons to illustrate simple phrases. The Skye seems to be used most often. The booklet is organized as spelling and pronunciation, lessons, grammar, then Gaelic-English, and English-Gaelic vocabulary.

Publications with audio cassette tapes

Gaelic Made Easy, Parts 1 through 4. John M. Paterson. Gairm Publications. Part 1 (1987) ISBN 901771 90 2, Part 2 (1987) ISBN 901 771 91 0, Part 3 (no date given), and Part 4. 1976 (4th ed.) ISBN not given. Each book is about 40 pages long, and contains 10 lessons. The text is rather condensed, and

these books often give clear explanations of some of the complexities of the language. Also, each book comes with a tape in which a native speaker recites the vocabulary. The quality of the tapes is variable. Paterson chose to use native speakers using different dialects for the four tapes. While the learner is exposed to some of the different dialects, the lack of uniformity may detract from the four-part program.

Can Seo. 1983. British Broadcasting Corporation. 128 p. This book was derived from the BBC television course for beginners in Gaelic, and it complements the full set of videos which are available in VHS¹. The text consists of 19 chapters on a serial story that is almost entirely conversational Gaelic. Exercises are given at the end of each chapter. Two cassette tapes that use the Skye dialect are provided with the book. The text lacks any pronunciation guide which detracts from its usefulness. This course may be most useful with the help of a native speaker or an advanced learner.

¹Available by special arrangement to ACGA members only.

Gaidhlig Troimh Chòmhradh. 1989 (vol. I). 1991 (vol. II), 1995 (vol. III). Catriona NicIomhair Parsons. Gaelic College, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. No ISBN number given. Each of the volumes contains 10 lessons, and is about 100 pages long. The intended audience is beginning speakers of high-school age, and the course can serve as a refresher for former students or speakers of Gaelic. No written pronunciation guide is given, but there are a few references to the International Phonetic Alphabet in the Forward. An oral pronunciation guide introduces the tape for Vol. I, and pronunciation guides and summaries of grammatical points follow in Vols. II and III. The tapes provide most of the Gaelic given in each lesson, the vocabulary list, and the readings and conversations. The tapes also have extensive drills of various types that deal with grammar. This publication emphasizes speaking the language in a colloquial fashion. Idioms are used throughout, emphasizing everyday vocabulary and contemporary situations. Innovative drills help cement the feeling for grammar and word order. The

author is a native Lewis speaker, Gaidhlig Mod medalist, and is currently teaching Gaelic at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia and the Gaelic College in Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

Cothrom Ionnsachaidh. Various years. Ronald Black. University of Edinburgh, Dept. of Celtic. 290 pages. A spiral bound publication that is a text book for teaching Gaelic. The book is updated periodically. There are 18 chapters. The text uses both acute and grave accents, and there are many charts and diagrams to illustrate grammatical points. This book can be used for both a text for learning and as a reference text. This book seems to address several topics that are not included in other texts. Cassette tapes for pronunciation may be purchased from the author.

Blasad Gaidhlig (A Taste of Gaelic). 1991. Donald MacLennan. 20 p. Gordon Wright Publishing. ISBN 903065 06 1. This is a phrase booklet with a 56-minute tape. As the title implies, this is an introduction to Gaelic. The simple phrases include material such as "Are you still cold?" "I haven't seen you in a long time," or "Will I be singing at the ceilidh?" The quality of the tape is good.

Scottish Gaelic in Three Months. 1996. Roibeard O Maolalaigh. Hugo Language Books Ltd., This is a new course that consists of a grammar book and two tapes which present the language in 12 lessons. The text book can be described as conservative in that it uses the old orthography with both acute and grave accents. The International Phonetic system is used to guide pronunciation. Everyday conversation is stressed, ranging from dialogue, anecdotes, to historical information. The two tapes are 90 minutes in length, and were made using a male and female native speaker for pronunciation. The first 45 minutes are devoted to basic pronunciation of vowels, constants, and diphthongs. The rest of the tapes are on the 12 lessons. The second tape is designed to test the learner's progress. Words and sentence are spoken in Gaelic or English for the student to translate and compare with the verbal translations given on the tape. For people who have no contact with a native speaker, the

tapes are worthwhile.

Teach Yourself Gaelic. 1993. Boyd Robertson and Ian Taylor. Hodder and Stoughton Publishers. ISBN 0 340 55923 3, 344 p. This text book comes with two cassette tapes. The text uses a conversational approach to teach Gaelic. Although the organization of the text may be a weakness, the content of the book is more urban and modern when compared with the original version (discussed below). This book does not seem as popular as the older version.

Speaking Our Language. 1993. Canan. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye. ISBN 1-897873-00-X. This course consists of four series with books, cassette tapes, and video (only the first video is available in VHS). Intended for beginners of all ages, this course was "specifically designed to teach conversational Gaelic in a lively and friendly way. That's why you'll find cartoons, puzzles, and news items alongside the grammar and language exercises." Each word is defined with an easy-to-use phonetic system. The first book, for example, is for Series I, Part 1 and covers TV programs 1-9, and is 72 pages long. The tapes seemed somewhat repetitive and tedious, but this may be an asset for beginners. The video is excellent because of the diversity of speakers, enhanced by spectacular scenes of rural and city life in Scotland.

Dictionaries

Gaelic Dictionary. 1986. Malcolm MacLennan. 613 p. Gaelic to English and English to Gaelic. A fairly standard dictionary for all levels, although it has been criticized as being out of date.

Abair. 1988. R. W. Renton and J. A. MacDonald. 162 p. A pocket-size dictionary. Gaelic to English and English to Gaelic. Concise and useful, but no pronunciation phonetics are given. A good dictionary for beginners.

The New English-Gaelic Dictionary. 1981. D. S. Thomson. 211 p. An English to Gaelic dictionary that attempts to be more up-to-date than other dictionaries. No pronunciation phonetics are given which reduces the book's usefulness. Perhaps most useful for writing in Gaelic.

The Illustrated Gaelic-English Dictionary. 1988. Edward Dwelly. 569 p. First published in 1901, this is the classic Dwelly's. Gaelic to English only. For advanced learners and native speakers.

The Gaels have a word for it! 1964. J. M. Paterson. The Gaelic League of Scotland. 31 p. This is a dictionary that gives the Gaelic equivalent for more contemporary and specialized terms such as "income tax rebate" or "air conditioner." No pronunciation guide is given.

Brìgh Nam Facal. 1991. Richard Cox. Oilthigh Ghlaschu. ISBN 903204-21-5. This dictionary is in Gaelic only, and is probably for the advanced learner and native speakers.

Children's Publications

Dealbh Is Facal. 1987. H. Amery and I. MacDhòmhnaill. 63 p. The title means "picture and word." This an oversized Gaelic picture book. Although it is a good ice breaker at Gaelic classes and a very useful teaching aid for children and beginners, it contains no pronunciation guide--the help of a native speaker or advanced learner is required.

Out of Print

Teach Yourself Gaelic. 1987. Roderick MacKinnon. 324 pages. It consists of 35 systematic lessons with quizzes at the end of each chapter. The pronunciation of most of the words is defined by an easy-to-use phonetic system. The original text had no oral tapes, but a full set of tapes was created for the text by Donald MacDonald in Montreal, Canada. The text lacks conversational Gaelic. For example, the book will not tell you

how to ask for directions or how to order a drink. Unfortunately, this book is out of print, and copies are becoming difficult to find. It is a useful addition to the serious learner's collection of resources.

The Gaelic Echo. A quarterly bi-lingual publication with a tape. Produced by Donnie MacDonald, a native of Lewis. He reads the entire text on the tape. The text has in the past, been an odd assortment of stories, letters to Donnie, puzzles, maps, and songs--all in Gaelic. However, it is not for beginners. The publication of The Gaelic Echo has ceased.

* * * * *

An Comunn still has three copies of Ronald Black's *Scottish Gaelic Grammar and Exercises and Tapes* (1992 Edition) which it will sell for \$25 including postage. Ronald Black is a professor of Gaelic at the University of Edinburgh. This Grammar is the text that he uses in the University. It has now been revised to some extent, and so we are selling these old copies.

For those interested not only in the basic grammar of the language but also the some of the nuances, this work is an excellent reference.

THE EDITOR COMMENTS

Mr. Williams in this issue and Mr. Dyer in the last have raised an important question as to why Naidheachd does not have more articles that are actually in Gàidhlig. Mr. Williams would like more material that is actually in the language while Mr. Dyer would like more instruction about the language.

As we have said in every issue, Naidheachd is an interactive journal which tries to bring our widespread membership into contact by publishing their contributions. We publish what is sent to us; we cannot publish what is not. For several issues we have asked for contributors to help to establish features, to become stringers, or to do small tasks. We appeal again. Perhaps someone will respond.

It has been suggested that we reprint other copy. We do from time to time, but there are problems of substance and policy. Such copy is generally copy-righted and properly we should ask permission for each reprint. Such requests are very time consuming for a journal with no staff. If someone would take on the task, then that would be another matter. Also, our members might ask that if Naidheachd is only a reprint journal, why not just subscribe to the originals; and the original sources might ask if we were not taking possible subscribers from them.

Our approach to the problem has been to publish reviews of Gàidhlig material that we have found interesting and useful. We have published reviews of books that we feel are at the level of most students and have published critiques of grammatical material. This material is generally available from Thistle & Shamrock Books (address in this issue). The response to these reviews and recommendations has been

astounding. For example we sold some 25 sets of Professor Black's grammar, a number that he said was comparable to his sales in Scotland to adult-education students; and Thistle & Shamrock has sold similar amounts of other things recommended. We are encouraged and would be willing to publish reviews by other than the Naidheachd staff.

Thus, we come to the question as to what kind of Gàidhlig instruction should be in Naidheachd. We feel that the very beginner should avail himself of the excellent materials now extant. These are grammars and tapes. It would not at all be efficient to publish snippets of such material; no one would live long enough even to begin to know the language. For the more advanced we have recommended books. Nonetheless, we think that there is something that we can do, and we have found a fellow who will try. In doing so we shall fall back on Mr. Dyer's admonition that if mistakes are made; well then, our readers can send in letters of corrections. Such will be instructive, give great feelings of satisfaction to the contributor, and be salutary to the fellow who has tried to fill the void.

* * * * *

Times have changed!
How so, Mr. Bosh?
Well, coffee, coffee everywhere;
and not a drop to drink.

WHERE IS OUR GRAMMAR TONIGHT?

One of the difficulties in learning Gaelic is simply that the Gaels do not think the same way as English speakers. It is as if the Fates have each individual in their sights to inflict him, to molest him, to give, and to take. The expression "I love you" is *Tha grabh agam ort*. There is love **at me on you**. You can hear Cupid's bow twang when you say it; and here I come, ready or not.

When the Gael learned English he translated from Gaelic to English. We can hear a little of the mystery of the language in these translations; the language of Americans in our mountain regions mostly, but also some in the lowlands too: I'll **learn** you to do that, I like you **heaps** Miss Jones.

The point is that sometime in the past some one must have published a grammar for Gaels to learn English as second language as we would say today. Such a grammar would give insight to the other side of learning. I have asked at the Library of Congress, no less, for references. **There are none!**

Does anyone know of a grammar, most likely written in the past century that gives English as a second language for monoglot **Gàidlig** speakers? If so, could they give the reference to

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**Question: Do you know of any
other study groups? Are there
changes? Let us know.**

BOOKS & THINGS

Scottish books and tapes may be ordered from

Thistle and Shamrock Books
P.O. Box 42, Alexandria, VA 22313
Phone: 703:548-2207
Fax: 703:548-6162).

<http://www.angelfire.com/va/thistleandshamrock/index.html>

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MAP OF SCOTTISH POETS

David George Williams has created a map of Scotland showing the locations of Modern and Contemporary Scottish poets. This map is available from ACGA for \$20 including postage and handling. Write or call

James F. Goff
3405 34'th Place N.W.
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202:244-6867

Mr. Williams has generously donated the proceeds of the sales of these maps to ACGA

EDITORIAL POLICY

Naidheachd is published in accord with the seasons of the Celtic calendar. Submissions by the members or interested readers are appreciated. The deadlines will be no later than a month before publication and are: **January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1.** Copy may be held for the following issue.

Camera-ready copy is preferred: type, courier 12 pt (or times roman 12pt) with title in bold and author in normal, centered on the page; margins on an 8 1/2" by 11" sheet are Top (0.75"), Bottom (3.00"), Left (0.50"), Right (3.75"), and are right justified. Space between paragraphs. No underlining. Legible manuscript can be retyped. Gaelic should be written in the conservative orthography. Type-face is IBM compatible style or similar. **Send two copies to expedite production.**

Send to: **James F. Goff, editor**
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

- * Events, book reviews, courses, or your own feature.
- * Study groups. Regional news. Music (CD reviews etc.).
- * Personal nostalgia.
- * Volunteer needed to spend a few hours in the George Peabody Library in **Baltimore**, Maryland, annotating Gaelic books in the Peabody collection. The resulting annotated bibliography will be available to ACGA members. The George Peabody Library is on Mount Vernon Place adjacent to the Peabody Conservatory.

Contact the Editor.

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ACGA WEBSITE

Use a 'browser' called Netscape or Internet Explorer and type in

<http://www.clark.net/pub/acga/>

from anywhere in the world.

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